

“Who Cares?” Background Research

Topic One: Ecological and Other Impacts of Large Entertainment Venues

Article 1: *Greening Bonnaroo* [1]

This article was part of a conference held at Leeds University in July of 2010. The authors, James Kennell and Rebekah Sitz, focus explicitly on the annual Bonnaroo music festival. This is an important festival to focus on, as it is “one of only two US winners of the Greener Festival Award in 2008 and 2009.” As such, one would expect the greening measures at Bonnaroo to far surpass those of similar sized events. While the overall findings of the article did not go into any comparisons between Bonnaroo and other festivals, Kennell and Sitz criticized Bonnaroo organizers for not doing enough. An intern working for the festival, noted that “[while volunteers seemed to possess the knowledge of sorting waste, many of the ‘Trash Talkers’ were not sure what happened with the compost or the general waste when it left the site.” This insinuates some level of negligence on the part of the organizers and volunteers. The article went on to talk about the flippant compliance to the requisite that all Bonnaroo vendors use compostable materials, citing that after running out, “vendors began using paper and plastic products on the day before the festival ended.”

Article 2: *The Growth Effects of Sports Franchises, Stadia and Arenas* [2]

This article, written by Dennis Coates and Brad Humphreys, focuses on the economic implications of sports franchises (specifically basketball, football, and baseball) on municipalities, and more specifically the change in per capita earnings of the municipalities. The article starts by citing existing mathematical models for estimating effects on per capita income goes on to criticize them and further embellish upon these models. Coates and Humphreys touch upon the politics of franchises entering municipalities, namely the leverage that these franchises use against the cities such as promise of economic prosperity that supposedly comes with these entertainment venues.

Coates and Humphreys go on to say that “the presence of a baseball franchise reduces per capita real income by more than \$2860. Considering this with stadium capacity effect, a baseball franchise playing in the average size stadium costs the [Metropolitan Area] more than \$850 per person per year.”

Topic Two: Plastic vs. Paper vs. Multiple Use Grocery Bags

Article 1: *Paper, Plastic Or Neither?* [3]

This is a Time magazine article which explores the politics involved in enacting bans on plastic bags, and provides basic quantitative and qualitative information. For example, Kat Pickert states that “Americans use more than 100 Billion thin film plastic bags [per annum].” She goes on to say that the industry has taken defensive measures discouraging the use of reusable bags: “Longer-lasting reusable bags often require more energy to make.” According to Pickert, “The [thin film plastic] bags are outlawed in 90 municipalities in California,” but goes to states that the producers of plastic bags have

responded by “hiring scientists to make the case that their products are not as bad for the planet as most people assume.”

Article 2: *Should Cities Ban Plastic Bags?* [4]

Similar to Article 1, this Wall Street Journal piece also focuses on the politics of the plastic bag industry, including the back-and-forth between municipalities and companies, as well as incurred costs as a result of their use. For example, “San Jose, California reports that it costs about \$1 Million a year to repair recycling equipment jammed with plastic bags. San Francisco estimates that to clean up, recycle and landfill plastic bags costs as much as 17 cents a bag, or approximately 8.5 Million a year.” The article goes on to exploring the ubiquity of plastic bags in the developing world, citing a ban on thin film plastic bags in Bangladesh, as they are responsible for many flood problems due to storm-drain clogging.

References:

- [1] Kennell, James, and Rebekah Sitz. “Greening Bonnaroo: Exploring the Rhetoric and Reality of a Sustainable Festival through Micro-Ethnographic Methods.” In *Proceedings of the Global Events Congress IV, 14-16 July 2010, Leeds, UK*. Leeds, UK: Events & Festivals Research, UK Centre for Events Management, 2010.
<http://www.eventsandfestivalsresearch.com/files/proceedings/KENNEL%20SITZ%20FINAL.pdf>.
- [2] Coates, Dennis, and Brad R. Humphreys. *The Growth Effects of Sport Franchises, Stadia and Arenas*. SSRN Scholarly Paper. Rochester, NY: Social Science Research Network, September 16, 1997. <http://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=33240>.
- [3] Pickert, Kate. “Paper, Plastic Or Neither.” *Time* 183, no. 2 (January 20, 2014): 11.
- [4] Dimitrova Russo, Daniella, and Todd Myers. “Should Cities Ban Plastic Bags?” *Wall Street Journal - Eastern Edition* 260, no. 83 (October 8, 2012): R5–R6.